SECTION II

TABLE OF CONTENTS

II – HYDRIC SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This subsection maintains the official list of hydric soils and hydrophytic plants used in conservation planning associated with wetland determinations. Wetlands possess three essential characteristics: (1) hydrophytic vegetation, (2) hydric soils, and (3) wetland hydrology. These three technical criteria must be met for an area to be identified as wetland (*Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands, 1987*).

Hydric Soils List

Hydric soils are soils that, in an undrained condition, are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation.

Hydrophytic Plant List

This subsection also contains the official hydrophytic plant list. Hydrophytic vegetation is defined as macrophytic plant life growing in water, soil, or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content (*Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands, 1987*).

II – HYDRIC SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

HYDRIC SOILS LIST

Hydric soils are developed under conditions sufficiently wet to support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. This listing includes phases of soil series that may or may not have been drained. Some soil series, designated as hydric, have phases that are not hydric depending on water table, flooding, and ponding characteristics.

This list will have a number of agricultural and nonagricultural applications. These include assistance in land use planning, conservation planning, and assessment of potential wildlife habitat. An area that meets the hydric soil criteria must also meet the hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology criteria in order for it to be classified as a jurisdictional wetland (See the *Environmental Laboratory, 1987, Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual – Technical Report Y-87-1, U.S. Army Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS).*

Definition of Hydric Soil

A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. The following criteria reflect those soils that meet this definition (*Federal Register, July 13, 1994. Changes in Hydric Soils of the United States, Washington, DC*).

Criteria for Hydric Soils

Current hydric soil criteria are (*Federal Register, February 24, 1995, Hydric Soils of the United States, Washington, DC)*:

1. All Histosols except Folists, or

2. Soils in Aquic suborder, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Aquisalids, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that are:

    a. Somewhat poorly drained and have a frequently occurring water table at less than 0.0 (ft) feet from the surface for a significant period during the growing season, or

b. Poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:

(1) water table equal to 0.0 foot during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within 20 inches (in), or for other soils, or

(2) water table at less than or equal to 0.5 feet from the surface during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 inches/hour in all layers within 20 inches, or

(3) water table at less than or equal to 1.0 foot from the surface during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 inches/hour in any layer within 20 inches, or

3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season, or

4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season.

This subsection includes:

- List of California Hydric Soils

II – HYDRIC SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

HYDROPHYTIC PLANT LIST

Hydrophytic vegetation is macrophytic plant life growing in water, soil or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content. It is one of the mandatory criteria for wetland identification (*Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands*, 1987). This subsection contains the list of plant species that occur in wetlands for the purposes of making wetland determinations.